—AP WIREPHOTO.
CAPT. VICENTE MENDEZ
Anti-Castro Leader

# ALPHA 66 SAYS GROUP IS THEIRS

T.P 4/11/70

## Militant Cuban Exiles Try to Start Warfare

By THEODORE EDIGER

MIAMI (AP) — A militant Cuban exile group said Monday it had "several guerrilla groups in different parts of Cuba." Fidel Castro said the movement would be crushed.

"Alpha 66 has started the war," Andreas Nazario, secretary-general of the exiles' organization, said in Miami.

Castro countered by saying in a funeral oration for five of his troops killed in the fighting that the invaders "will receive a defeat more humiliating, more crushing" than occurred in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

Castro's speech, broadcast over Havana radio, had been delivered at the funeral of his five troops in eastern Cuba. Havana radio reported two guerrillas have been killed and another captured.

Alpha 66 said earlier in Miami that its raiders went ashore "to start guerrilla warfare in all the mountains of Cuba, beginning with the Sierra Maestra."

It was in the Sierra Maestra, in Oriente Province, that Castro organized his successful revolution against President Fulgencio Batista in the 1950's.

Nazario told a news conference that many men already are inside Cuba, "and others won't be long in getting there."

He said the leader was a long-time revolutionary, Capt. Vicente Mendez.

Nazario summarized Havana radio's account of two battles placing the Castro forces' death toll at four and the counter-revolutionaries at two. He declared:

"This is not a small isolated action, but the result of a perfect plan already on the march."

### TWO GROUPS

Nazario said: "The contingents of Alpha 66 inside Cuba are divided into two basic groups. Moreover, there are several other guerrilla nuclei."

The guerrilla fronts are called Julio Cesar Ramirez and Everardo Salas. Ramirez drowned early in January when a band of 15, including some of the same combatants, foundered in rough seas in an earlier attempted

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 18, Col. 4

Continued from Page 1

landing. Salas was captured by Castro forces in a previous Alpha 66 landing.

"Our forces are not of the CIA," Nazario said. "Nor are they from the American government, nor reactionaries, nor mercenaries,"

The forces, the revolutionary leader said, are confronting Castro troops "without intervention of any world power."

They set out for Cuba from an unidentified friendly nation, but not from the United States, he added.

The number and location of the invaders cannot be disclosed, he added. He said they were excellently equipped.

Nazario called on members of the Cuban armed forces, students, workers, farmers and government officials to join the Alpha 66 forces.

"Our guns are not pointing against the people, but against the Sovietized imperialist traitor," he added.

At Alpha 66 headquarters, Mendez' wife, Dulce Maria, waited, her eyes puffy from crying.

### 'VERY WORRIED'

"I'm very worried," she said. "To tell you the truth, I'm desperate. I only hope that he (Mendez) was not one of those captured and that he is continuing to fight."

Castro called the raiders "a group of mercenaries coming from the United States equipped with modern automatic arms of the Yankee army."

Cuban troops captured two of the raiders, Castro said, "seizing two automatic rifles, 2,000 bullets and numerous packages of plastic explosives."

In another battle Saturday, Castro said, "Four courageous combatants of the revolution lost their lives and two were gravely wounded."

Two raiders were killed and a third taken prisoner, the Cuban prime minister said.

Alpha 66 and its former allied group, Second Front, made constant commando raids on Cuba from 1962 to 1965. U.S. restrictions later halted these.

The group's original military commander, Eloy Monoye Gutierrez, landed in Cuba with a small band Dec. 28, 1964, seeking to set up guerrilla warfare against Castro much as the current group was trying to do. Castro forces captured Monoye a few weeks later. He is now in Cabana Prison in Havana.

Alpha and Second Front split up last year.